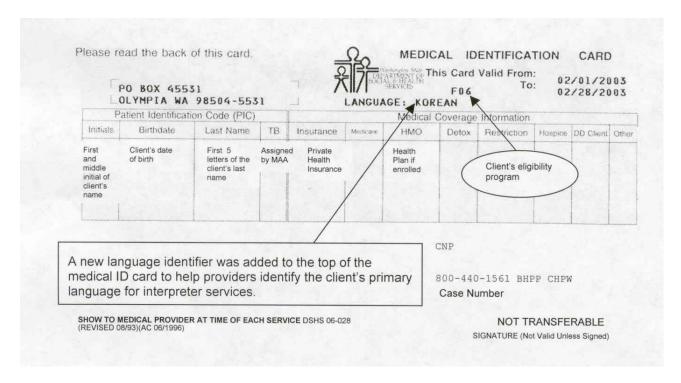# Decoding the Medicaid coupon

The Medical Assistance identification coupon includes several codes to help providers. The new language identifier will be listed at top center.

- **Client eligibility code:** Alphanumeric code listed to the right of the new identifier defines the specific coverage that applies to the client. Medicaid is broken down into more than a dozen specific programs, which range from categories like pregnant women, aged or disabled to family planning clients, who do not receive medical coverage.
- **TB:** This is an extra "tiebreaker" character that may be needed to distinguish two clients from each other.
- **Insurance/Medicare:** Clients who have private health insurance or Medicare in addition to Medicaid have that designated on their coupons because Medicaid is a secondary payer in those circumstances (i.e., providers must bill the other payers first).
- **HMO:** About half of the state's 900,000 Medicaid clients are enrolled in a managed-care program called Healthy Options with a private HMO.
- **Detox:** Eligibility for alcohol or drug detox programs.
- **Restrictions:** Clients may have restrictions on coverage – for example, clients may be restricted to a single pharmacy or doctor based on their history.
- **Hospice:** Used if client has chosen hospice care.
- **DD:** Used if patient is also a client of DSHS Developmental Disabilities Division.
- **Other:** Not currently in use. Blank area at bottom of the coupon can be used for other information – for example, plan telephone numbers or a guardian's name and address, for example.

Additional information about the medical coupon and Medicaid eligibility codes are at http://maa.dshs.wa.gov/Eligibility under "**PDF Version of Medical Eligibility Overview**"